(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Availability of Foreign Loans after withdrawal of Sanctions

1883. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have lifted sanction against India imposed after the Nuclear Test Explosion;

(b) whether the sanction have been lifted without imposing any condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether after lifting of the sanctions submit foreign loan/aid would be available for developmental and other projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) All countries have lifted sanctions against India, with the latest being the USA on the 22nd September, 2001, and Japan on the 26th October, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As a result of the lifting of sanctions, foreign and multilateral assistance would be available for all developmental projects, and not merely for basic human needs projects.

New Passport Collection Centres

1884. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to open new passport collection centers across the country; and

(b) if so, whether any such collection center is likely to be opened in Karnataka in view of huge rush in Bangalore office?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government is working to decentralise the

collection of passport applications to the district level. The state Governments have been asked to start collecting passport applications through the district authorities.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment to Indian Passport Act, 1967

1885. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently issued an Ordinance making some amendments to the Indian Passport act, 1967;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what safeguards have been made in the Ordinance to ensure prevention of harassment of genuine passport holders?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Passports (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated on 23rd October, 2001 (Ord. 8 of 2001) and seeks to confer powers upon the concerned authorities to suspend a passport or travel document of a person indulging in criminal or anti-national activities to prevent him/her from leaving the country during the period when the action to revoke or impound his/her passport is initiated and when the passport is actually revoked or impounded.

(c) To prevent any harassment of genuine passport holders, provision has been made in the Ordinance that the passport or travel document would be temporarily suspended only to enable completion of the procedure for impounding or revoking the passport which inter alia involves issue of a show cause notice and filing of an appeal against the order of suspension.